

Government Review & Efficiency Transcript

10-7-2021

SPEAKERS

Jean Raymond, Tara Gaston, Audra Hedden, Jonathan Schopf, Matt Veitch, Several Supervisors, Therese Connolly

Matt Veitch

Welcome to the Government Review and Efficiency committee meeting for October 7. Attendance has been taken. Everybody's online except me today. So welcome, virtually. And the first order of business will be the approval of the minutes of the August 25 2021 meeting. So I'll ask for motion on that.

Jean Raymond

I'll move them.

Matt Veitch

And the second.

Jonathan Schopf

John Schopf, second.

Matt Veitch

Supervisors Schopf, thank you. Any discussion? All in favor say aye.

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Matt Veitch

Any opposed? All right, carried. So for numbers three and four on our agenda today. I had a brief discussion with the Chairman of the Board the other day on these, and at his request, he wants us to pull these from the agenda. So I'm going to pull number three and number four from the agenda. They're currently tabled. So we're just going to leave them on the table. And hopefully, we'll have them for next month. So at his request, I'm going to pull them.

Jean Raymond

You tell him I said, Thank you.

Matt Veitch

I will pass that message along. So the next one.

Jonathan Schopf

Matt, for the benefit of those who are driving, which items are three and four?

Matt Veitch

Oh, sorry. Yeah. So number three is the public relations policy update and the number four is the travel and discretionary spending policy. So those two policy changes, they're going to be held for another month.

Jonathan Schopf

OK great, thank you.

Matt Veitch

No problem. So the next...

Tara Gaston

I apologize, I missed. Who requested that?

Matt Veitch

The Chair of the Board.

Tara Gaston

Okay, thank you.

Matt Veitch

Any other questions? It's hard when I can't see you. So number five on our agenda is amending the Rules of the Board for the December Board meeting date. I think is that an agenda request that we had in here?

Therese Connolly

Yes from the County Administrator's office.

Matt Veitch

Okay, so we had this as an agenda request. So this one came across, and I took a look at it. So what they would like to do is change the date for the December meeting for this month to the December 15 date, which is actually a week earlier than it is scheduled on the normal calendar for the Rules of the Board, we usually schedule our meeting on the third Tuesday. And this would actually be the second Tuesday, but actually after the second Wednesday, because of the way the month works.

Therese Connolly

The 15th is actually a Wednesday.

Matt Veitch

Right, oh, the 15th is a Wednesday, so they want to have it on a Wednesday.

Matt Veitch

All right. Audra? So this actually yeah, we're gonna have Audra Hedden come up and kind of talk about what this is about.

Audra Hedden

December 1st falls on a Wednesday. And so the seventh falls, is the second Wednesday and the 15th is the third Wednesday. So it's the third, it's because the first falls on a Wednesday. But the way the rules are written the second Tuesday, is the first Tuesday. The first Tuesday's is the last day of November. And so it shimmies a little bit. So between the Board meeting and Law and Finance, there's a two-week gap. So moving it up that one week makes those meetings just a little bit closer.

Matt Veitch

Right and I think that's fine. The other thing that we need to pay attention to this is that if we were to schedule on the normal meeting date, the third Tuesday, that's actually a day after the budget is due. The budget is due on December 20 by law. And so therefore, this actually helps give us a little time if there's any issues with the budget, and whatnot and rescheduling. If we have to call a special meeting for any reason that month, moving it up a week actually helps in that regard. So I think the intent is fine, perfect. What I would say though, is that I would rather not amend the rules of the board for the meeting date for this year. I actually think that we could probably do this just as a simple resolution to change the date, rather than amending the rules of the board. The rules are kind of intended to be a document that is approved and then changed over time, bit by bit, as we decide, and we'll get to that in the next agenda item. But changing the meeting date for one particular month in one particularly year doesn't really make a lot of sense to amend the entire rules for that. So I think if we just have a resolution request to go to Law and Finance and onto the Board to change the meeting date, we have plenty of notice here. It's October, we're way ahead of schedule. We're not doing this last minute. But it will allow us to just do that by resolution for this year. But what I would suggest just to add another comment is that because of this, and because from time to time, we will have to amend our meeting schedule. And I've already been told by the Clerk of the Board that next year, we have our February meeting, which is normally when the Association to Towns is, we're actually going to conflict with that based on the way our rules are written for the fourth Tuesday for that month. So already looking ahead into next year, the rules of the Board really don't fit in that particular item in the rules for every single year. So I would propose that we actually amend the rules of the board instead, to strike the meeting schedule. Section, I think it's section 1-B, if I'm not mistaken. And instead of having it be set like the third Tuesday at four o'clock or the fourth Tuesday at four o'clock for February, just have it be that the Board will pass a resolution each January, setting its meeting schedule for the year. And then each year, we'll have to re-up that resolution for our meeting schedule. So the rules will just say that we pass a resolution setting our meeting schedule each January, whatever at the organizational meeting, and then go from there. And then that just allows it to happen by resolution. If we have to amend that resolution later, we just do a resolution amendment rather than trying to amend the whole rules of the board every single year. So first, I'm going to have I think, well, and what I would like to do is I think we'll amend this in the next month's meeting, because we're going to talk about the rules of the board next month. But so I hope the committee got that.

Jean Raymond

Matt could I suggest that it might be easier, for at least going into December this year, to just simply amend the rules of the board to say, put a sentence at the end of the schedule that says unless the Board by resolution changes the date in a given month.

Matt Veitch

So that's another way to do it. Right still have the scheduled meeting.

Jean Raymond

Otherwise, you're going to run into something else where you may have a problem and this way, you've got it scheduled, it's pretty well set out. But if there's a hurricane and half the county is without power. That kind of thing. I mean, and like you say interfering with the schedule for the New York State Association of Counties or the New York State Association of Towns, meetings and stuff. This way, you don't have to get all caught in the weeds to just have to give yourself permission next month to change it, and then next month, change the meaning for December.

Matt Veitch

So yeah, so I think the suggestion would be, then you're saying to leave the rules to still say third Tuesday, but then add maybe a section that says, from time to time the Board? Yeah.

Jean Raymond

Yeah. Get the legal language that just says, but we can change our mind whenever we want to. Only say it nicely.

Matt Veitch

Well, of course. So yeah. And I mean, I think for this, so the idea here would be to actually make that amendment going into next year, if you know what I mean, because we have to review the rules every year. I mean, we could amend it now, but then we're just maybe amending the rules again in a month or so. So it makes sense...

Jean Raymond

But you want to change the meeting for December. So next month, amend the rules. Give yourself a month to think about it. And then we change it again, we change it again? It's not the end of the world.

Tara Gaston

Can we change it at next month's board meeting. Is that enough time for public notice for a meeting that we're now moving up a week in December?

Jean Raymond

Is that another time? If you change it at your November meeting? Yeah, it's enough time.

Therese Connolly

Now, that would be enough time. I mean, it's always better to have it ahead of time so that we can have it on the website, and we can notify the public earlier. I think it's nicer to let the public know and all of

you Supervisors know that you need to amend your schedule sooner rather than later especially going into December.

Matt Veitch

Yeah, so let's do this. Let's actually do a resolution to change the date to December and do that now. In this month, and the next..

Jean Raymond

I move to change the date of the meeting for December 2021 from the scheduled date of the 21st, Tuesday the 21st, to Wednesday, the 15th at the same time,

Matt Veitch

Okay, so that's a motion.

Jean Raymond

Yes it is.

Matt Veitch

All right. So moved. Is..

Tara Gaston

I will second that, Gaston.

Matt Veitch

Alright, so moved by Supervisor Raymond, second by Supervisor Gaston. Any further discussion? All in favor say aye.

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Matt Veitch

Opposed? All right, carried, Thank you. Appreciate that, good discussion. And yeah, like I say, we'll have this again, next month for the full update of the rules. So that kind of leads us right into the next item, actually, which is the role of the committee and the future tasks for the remainder of 2021. In your agenda, and the last page, it actually has our committee's definition and scope, and a couple of things that we have to do each year. I think we've done a lot of that already. Review, make additions, modifications, deletions to the Rules of the Board, we've done that a few times already. And to the County's policies and procedures, we've been working on that. And the Saratoga County code, which are the Local Laws. One of the things that we do have on our list of things to do is to ensure that the County appointment book contains the most relevant and appropriate statutory committees and individual appointments. So we do have to take a look at that as well. So the first thing would be I think we should probably have an agenda item next month, to review the rules of the board, and we'll basically talk about what's working, what isn't working, what is the challenge and try to come up with a comprehensive list of rules. So the meeting schedule is one thing we found is to be an issue, so we'll

have that as one of the changes that we make, among other things. So I think by now that we've reached October, we know what works well, and what may or may not work well in the rules and make changes accordingly. The second thing would really be the appointment book. So as we go into 2021, I mean, while this committee doesn't actually have any authority to make appointments to the County, our job could be to look at the appointment book and just verify that we have, what vacancies are out there, what spots are available, what appointments are relevant? What committees do we still need to have? Are there any committees that we don't need to have? So I think we should probably look at the appointment book and go through that review next month before December, so we'll have something to hopefully have ready for the incoming Chair for 2022.

Jean Raymond

Matt, if you're going to go over the appointments in the appointment book, could you have somebody, prior to us going over it, make some kind of a notation if it's not in the book as to why we have to begin with. It is statutory, did we do it as a as a Board by resolution? Is that a Chairman's appointment? Is it something that the State government requires? So we know why they exist, too.

Matt Veitch

Right? So there's an appointment book out there that does have that information in it. So we'll make sure that everybody on the committee gets a copy of that. I think Attorney Hartnett and the Clerk are going to work on that for us for next month. As well, as you know, who has expiring appointments, because one of those things as well is like, what's available? I mean some are not expiring appointments, but some are. So that gives us a little bit of a way to kind of let the Chairman know, here's what you have coming up for next year. So I think that's a good thing for us to do. Also keeps us current on all of our appointments. So with that, I don't know if anyone else has any comments regarding this item. But I know we'll definitely have a meeting next month because we have a few things that we have to do, and then we'll kind of go from there. So anybody else have any other comments? All right, hearing none. Does anybody have any other business to come before the committee? All right, hearing none, I'll ask for a motion to adjourn.

Jean Raymond

So moved.

Jonathan Schopf

Second.

Matt Veitch

Moved and seconded. All in favor.

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Matt Veitch

All right. Opposed? We're adjourned. Thank you very much. Have a good weekend.